

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 029000
ORIGIN ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029000

FOR ROBERT W. WHITE, USDEL CIECC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: US STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT CIECC CONFERENCE

1. DEPARTMENT APPROVES FOLLOWING TEXT AS STATEMENT TO BE
MADE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT CIECC CONFERENCE:

2. BEGIN STATEMENT: PRIOR TO DISCUSSING THE US PLEDGE,
I WOULD LIKE TO REFER TO THE EXCELLENT SPEECH BY THE
HONORABLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DANIEL DARRACQ, AT THE
INAUGURAL SESSION OF THIS CONFERENCE. THAT ADDRESS HAD
MANY INSIGHTS OF IMPORTANCE FOR OUR MEETING. I WAS
PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE ELOQUENCE OF THESE WORDS
QUOTE EDUCATION MUST PREPARE MAN FOR THE IMPACT OF TECH-
NOLOGY, TO ASSIMILATE IT IN ORDER TO MAKE LIFE MORE
BEARABLE AND TO EXTEND ITS BENEFITS SO AS TO PRESERVE AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 029000

ENNOBLE IT; BUT IT MUST ALSO PROVIDE A WARNING AGAINST
THE EXCESSES THAT GRADUALLY WEAKEN IT. MATERIAL DEVELOP-
MENT, TECHNOLOGY, CAN CREATE A SPIRITUAL VACUUM. THE TIME
HAS COME TO PROCLAIM THAT THE DESTINY OF CULTURE CANNOT
REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO, SEDUCED BY THE MAGIC OF
TECHNICAL METHODS, FORGET THAT MAN CONTINUES TO BE THE
MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL. THIS IS THE CONVICTION THAT

INSPIRES THE WILL AND STRENGTHENS THE SPIRIT OF URUGUAY
IN ITS CLEAR AND RADICAL CONFRONTATION WITH ALL TRENDS
THAT SEEK TO IGNORE THE HUMAN CONDITIONS. END QUOTE.

3. THE MINISTER THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS HUMAN VALUES
AND HE PLEDGED HIS GOVERNMENT IN THESE WORDS, QUOTE: WE
WILL APPLY OUR EFFORTS TO THE INTEGRAL PROTECTION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS, BY MAINTAINING AND RAISING THE HIGH
STANDARDS THAT WE HAVE ATTAINED IN THE COURSE OF OUR
HISTORY. END QUOTE.

4. THE SECRETARY GENERAL ALSO EMPHASIZED THE OVERRIDING
IMPORTANCE OF FREEDOM AND FULL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THE DESTINY OF OUR PEOPLES.

5. IN THE VIEW OF THE US DELEGATION, MINISTER DARRACQ
AND SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA WERE ENTIRELY CORRECT TO
INTRODUCE THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN VALUES IN THE CONTEXT
OF A CONFERENCE DEVOTED TO EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE.

6. FOR EDUCATION CANNOT FLOURISH, SCIENCE CANNOT PROSPER,
AND CULTURE CANNOT ENRICH THE LIVES OF OUR CITIZENS
UNLESS THE STATE UNDERTAKES TO PROTECT CERTAIN RIGHTS
WHICH ARE DECLARED TO BE THE FOUNDATIONS FOR CIVILIZED
SOCIETY IN ALL OF THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRIES
HERE REPRESENTED AND IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE INTER AMERICAN DECLARATION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS. AMONG THESE RIGHTS ARE NUMBERED FREEDOM
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PAGE 03 STATE 029000

OF ASSEMBLY, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY
ARREST AND PUNISHMENT. WITHOUT THESE GUARANTEES, BASIC
HUMAN VALUES ARE AT THE MERCY OF THE STATE TO GRANT OR TO
WITHDRAW ACCORDING TO THE WHIM OF ITS AGENTS.

7. AS PRESIDENT CARTER SAID IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS,
THERE EXISTS IN THE WORLD A QUOTE RISING PASSION FOR
FREEDOM END QUOTE. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE FOREIGN
RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE QUOTE BASED ON
WORLDWIDE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS END QUOTE.

8. URUGUAY HAS EMPHASIZED THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL
INTEREST IN THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE
OBLIGATION OF ALL STATES TO ASSIST IN MAINTAINING AND
RAISING THE STANDARD OF OBSERVANCE OF GUARANTEES OF
HUMAN RIGHTS, AN UNDERTAKING FREELY ENTERED INTO BY ALL
MEMBER STATES OF THE OAS SIGNATORY TO THE INTER AMERICAN
DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. MUTUAL INTEREST COMPELS US

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TO STRENGTHEN THE OBSERVANCE OF THESE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
AND TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS THAT UNDERMINE CIVIL
LIBERTIES AND THE SECURITY OF OUR PEOPLES. WORDS ARE
IMPORTANT; ACTIONS ARE BASIC.

9. I CLOSE THIS PART OF MY STATEMENT WITH A QUOTATION
FROM THE UNESCO PUBLICATION QUOTE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS REPRESENT AN ESPECIALLY CRITICAL PROBLEM IN AN
INTERDEPENDENT WORLD. THEIR WIDER REALIZATION IS IN-
CREASINGLY REQUIRED IN ACHIEVING UNDERSTANDING, COOPERA-
TION, AND PEACE AMONG NATIONS AS WELL AS WITHIN
NATIONS. COUNTRIES WITH EXTENSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS MAY SOME-
TIMES SEEM UNSTABLE OR INEFFICIENT, BUT THOSE WITH-
OUT SUBSTANTIAL HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT LIKELY TO ENDURE,
END QUOTE. THESE WORDS APPEAR IN THE FOREWORD. THE
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PAGE 04 STATE 029000

AUTHOR OF THAT FOREWORD IS DR. ROBERT LEESTMA, ASSOCIATE
COMMISSIONER FOR INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTER-
NATIONAL EDUCATION, U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION, AND A
MEMBER OF OUR DELEGATION. END STATEMENT.
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